

## The Bloomfield Citizen.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1886.

## The Cost of Gas.

The use of Electric lights upon the streets in New York has in no way injured the business of the gas companies. Upon the contrary there are over 1,000 more public gas lamps in that city than there were before electric lighting was perfected. Up to 1880 and after, the New York Gas Companies had been working along, a virtual monopoly, declaring each year handsome dividends. The price of gas four years ago, when the electrical companies were just establishing themselves, was \$2.25 a thousand feet. Two years afterward, under that pressure, and partly too, through a cut by the new Equitable Company, the rates fell to \$1.75 per thousand. Last winter the State Legislature, after a prolonged investigation, put the price of gas in New York at \$1.25 per thousand. The holders of gas stocks growled and sulked in public, but the Gas Companies kept on quietly enlarging and improving their different works. They refuse to show their books to the public, but there is no doubt they are still making money through the increased use of gas. The prices paid to the three Companies for gas by the City during the year 1885-1886 were as follows: To the Consolidated (for two-thirds of all the public lamps in use) \$17.50 per year for each lamp; the same to the New York Mutual and \$12 to the Equitable. These lamps burn 16,000 feet of gas per year; making the cost per thousand \$1.10 to the Consolidated Companies and 75 cents per thousand to the Equitable. The township of Bloomfield pays \$13.25 per lamp each year or \$3.03 per thousand.

For gas used in the public buildings the Consolidated and Mutual charged \$1.50 a thousand feet and the Equitable \$1.40. The Montclair Gas Company charges its customers \$2.90 per thousand feet.

The gas furnished in New York is of high illuminating power. Four of the Companies in the Consolidated make water gas and two coal gas. The Equitable uses the Zeijmanowski process, which is the newest and perhaps cheapest of all. The coal used is mingled with limestone, and the resultant gas driven off as usual through the condensers and "scrubbers." It is mixed with naphtha afterward and gets thus a high illuminating power.

The illuminating power in candles of the gas furnished by the different companies varies widely. The New York branch of the Consolidated can show 24.99 candle power; the Manhattan branch only 18.90; the Metropolitan branch 22.90; the Municipal branch 29.25; the Knickerbocker branch, 26.46; The Mutual's gas has an illuminating power of 38.75 and the Equitable one of 31.31, thus showing that the lowest priced gas is best of all.

The above facts are gleaned from the New York Tribune and speak volumes to Bloomfield tax-payers and gas-consumers.

## Relics of Barbarism.

We have heard for many years of the "twin relics," slavery and polygamy, but until recently we were not aware that instead of being twins they were really triplets and that the third of the trio had been in hiding until late.

We have recently had intimations that this long lost triplet has been found, but were scarcely prepared to believe that a relic so long missing would turn up so late in the nineteenth century, and were inclined to class it with the sea serpent and missing link, frequently discovered, but never found.

But on Saturday last on the head of a lady (?) on the train from N. Y. to Montclair we saw the triplet, our doubts were dispelled, and henceforth slavery and polygamy have a sister, for this relic is essentially feminine. Nor does this discovery rest upon our own unsupported authority. There were many eye witnesses to its appearance and during the trip from Newark to Bloomfield it was in constant view and a full and careful description of the relic was obtained, the accuracy of which can be vouched for by all who saw it.

Now, lest our readers may think that we are indulging in romance, and that they may be able to identify it upon its reappearance, we will describe it.

It consisted of a piece of felt, shaped somewhat like a truncated cone set upon its base upon the head of the wearer. It was some five inches high and had a circumference of about twenty to twenty-five inches. Ranged in a row around the base of this cone of felt were the heads of some twenty-five little birds placed closely together, and massed in front of the cone were the heads of some dozen more. This combination of felt and birds' heads

is called, we are reliably informed a lady's (?) hat with bird's heads trimming.

There can be no doubt of the correctness of our identification of this hat as a relic of barbarism, as the long lost triplet. The custom of carrying scapls as ornaments reached its height probably among the North American savages who cherished the scapls of their slain enemies as their choicest possessions; and among all barbarous nations, the cutting off of the heads of their enemies and carrying them in triumph as a token of their victory, prevailed to a greater or less extent, as witness the cart-loads of heads of the Afghan rebels sent to Cabul by the leader of the government troops. To be sure these heads upon this hat were not the trophies of victory, unless it were a victory over decency and compassion, but wherein does the wearing of them differ from the wearing of scapls or human heads? It is but a modern modification of ancient cruelty.

To trim this hat thirty and more lives were taken, not in battle, not in the heat of passion but in cold blood, for so many cents each, and then this lady (?) bought them, (bah! the veriest savage would have scorned to buy his scapls,) bought them to trim a hat. We do not wonder that this triplet has hid its head so long. It is the meanest of the family.

The loquacity of barbers is proverbial. The helpless inmates of the tonsorial chair must perforce keep his mouth shut and ears open during the application of the razor. But new terrors constantly arise to frighten the seeker after neatness and comfort. Not long ago, the death was noted of a man whose throat was cut by an insane barber. Now we are told of a new disease which causes the hair to fall out in bunches, leaving the scalp bare in spots. By some it is ascribed to a moth, by others to a nervous disease, whose technical name is *Alopecia Areata*. The former word has a Greek derivation meaning fox, because the disease is common among those animals. In fact it was formerly called the fox-evil or scurf, but the term now means a falling off of the hair from any part of the body. *Areata* indicates the dryness or atrophy of the roots of the hair. The disease is curable and implies that the whole system, particularly the nervous part, is run down and needs toning up. There is, however, nothing contagious about it and its existence is no fault of the barbers. So says one of the best known physicians of New York City.

## LITERARY NOTES.

In these days when poets write their words and print them, it is refreshing to find a book of sweet songs full of the melody of faith and love. Such a book is *Calla Thaxter's*, "Cruise of the Mystery" and other poems. We hardly know which song is best, but we are sure that he who reads "Schumann's Song" will never forget its charm. The book has a dainty cover, is printed on parchment and is published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

To the December number of Lippincott's Monthly Magazine, Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett contributes the complete novel, "Miss DeFarge," a study of life in the household of a dissolute, spendthrift English lord, which affords ample scope for both pathos and humor. E. P. Roe contributes a story entitled "A Ghost on Christmas Eve." A delightful little extravaganza is *Spawell Sidney's* "Maid Marian." The literary autobiography is furnished by John Habberton. Another autobiographical sketch of unique interest is that in which Charles Adams tells "How I Became an Artist's Model." Junius Henri Browne in "Newspaperism Reviewed," makes a very clever, entertaining, and goodtempered answer to Conde Pallen's article on "Newspaperism." In the November number, Frank G. Carpenter discusses "The Presidents as Gas-tronomers," and gives a good deal of original information gathered from authentic sources. The departments of Monthly Gossip and Book-Talk are as bright as ever. The poetry is furnished by Ella Wheeler Wilcox, Charles L. Hildreth, and Helen Gray Cone. "A Bachelor's Blunder" by W. E. Norris, is concluded in this number and in future the publication of serial stories will be entirely discontinued, a complete novel being furnished with each number.

"The Sonnets and Lyrics" of Helen Jackson (H. H.) which Roberts Brow have in press, were collected by a lady who was, I believe, the author's most intimate friend, and who opens the volume with a poetic prologue. This little volume has in it a picture of the house where Mrs. Jackson lived in Colorado Springs, and of the grave where she lies buried. Her resting-place is among the big trees on the top of a mountain, and is as yet unmarked by a stone. The branch of a tree, with a handkerchief tied to it, marks the head, and it is said that the atmosphere is so clear that this handkerchief can be distinctly seen from the poet's old home, seven miles away.

Julian Hawthorne says there are probably not ten authors in England who can sell a novel, serial rights in a magazine included, for three hundred dollars. This is included pay enough for brain work, but it does not seem to deter English men and English women from writing novels, or our publishers from reprinting them. The largest proportion of our fiction comes from the ill-paid English novel-writers.

—One might be kept almost continually

busy denying the various erroneous reports which the paragraphs circulate concerning literary people. The last of these stated Miss Cleveland as being engaged upon a new novel. In answer to an inquiry as to the authenticity of the report, she writes as follows: "The book of which you speak of as forthcoming from my pen, is entirely, in common with most other of the reports current, the fabric of somebody else's vision."

The October number of American Art, the new Boston art magazine is interesting. The magazine numbers among its contributors many of the leading art writers and artists of the country. Among these are: William Howe Downey, art critic of the Boston Advertiser; Caryl Coleman, Charles DeKay, art critic of the New York Times; Sidney Dickerson, art critic and lecturer; Lyman H. Wells, art critic of the Boston Post, and others, who will all treat of art topics of general interest.

Prof. Ruskin makes this amusing and delightful literary confession in his Autobiography: "My own literary work, on the contrary, was always done as quietly and methodically as a piece of tapestry. I knew exactly what I had got to say, put the words firmly in their places like so many stitches, hemmed the edges of chapter and found with what seemed to me graceful flourishes, touched them finally with my cunningest points of color, and read the work to papa and mamma at breakfast next morning, as a girl shows her sampler."

A volume of the memoirs and letters of Agnes Strickland is soon to be published in London. "It is not generally known," says The Athenaeum, "that Elizabeth Strickland was a fellow-worker with her younger sister, and the parts taken by each in writing the 'Lives of the Queens of England' are indicated in the volume."

One of the best selling books on Houghton, Mifflin & Co.'s list is Longfellow's "Evangeline" with Darley's illustrations, of which they have recently brought out a new edition.

Longfellow's Perfume, Esencia.  
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Lutheburg's Perfume, Alpine Violet.  
Lutheburg's Perfume, Lily of the Valley.

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